(b) and (c) In terms of the investments being made, this sector is expected to grow at Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of about 30% and earn total revenue of US$ 20.5 billion during 2004-05, US$ 26.7 billion by 2005-06 and US$ 50 billion by 2007-08.

Recycling of E-waste

1727. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MAIT (the association of IT hardware makers) has assessed generation of electronic waste worth Rs.7000 crore annually in India;

(b) whether E-waste contains toxic substances like lead, cadmium, mercury and non bio-degradable plastic posing health hazards;

(c) whether more than 60 per cent E-waste collected for recycling in the West and other developing countries is sent to countries in Asia including India where recycling is cheaper; and

(d) if so, Government's comments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) No, Sir. MAIT have informed that they have not conducted any study on generation of E-waste in India.

(b) Yes, Sir. E-waste contains toxic substances like lead, cadmium, mercury in one form or another to varying degrees. The basic body of most electronic equipment is non-biodegradable plastic which also poses environmental hazards.

(c) and (d) According to some reports, 50% to 80% of the E-waste collected in the USA is reported to be exported to the developing countries, mainly in Asia where recycling may be cheaper. The E-waste *per se* is not hazardous and may not directly pose any immediate environmental risk. It is the rudimentary and crude recycling methods to recover the precious metals from this waste adopted by the people involved in this business that poses an environmental threat.

The Government has constituted a Working Group consisting of Regulatory agencies, NGOs, Industry Associations and experts in the field to examine all aspects of the issue at the National level.

Computerisation of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly

1724. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Legislators of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Central Government to computerize the State Assembly;

(b) whether Government have considered their request and studied the economic feasibility of computerization of the entire Assembly; and

(c) if so, the progress in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal is presently under consideration.

Internet sharing

1729. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts are being made to introduce Internet sharing which is a highly advanced method of digital media in a big way in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) Internet sharing, also known as Internet connection sharing is the method of sharing of the Internet connection amongst multiple computers for use in the house and in cyber café environment. This is done by using one of the computers in the network to act as a gateway/ router. It is already being used by the ISPs in India.